

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Thin refined aluminium sheet or strip with purity greater than 99.9%, designed for making anodes of electrolytic capacitors, with an atomic content of between 5 and 25% of aluminium carbide in the 10 nm thick surface layer.

2. (original) Sheet or strip according to claim 1, characterised in that the atomic content of aluminium carbide in the surface layer is between 10 and 20%.

3. (currently amended) Method for manufacturing sheets or strips as claimed in ~~either of claims~~ claim 1 and 2, comprising casting of a refined aluminium plate, its homogenisation, hot rolling, cold rolling and final annealing under neutral atmosphere, characterised in that a gas containing carbon atoms is mixed with the neutral gas.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 3, characterised in that the gas containing carbon atoms ~~forms part of~~ is selected from the group including consisting of methane, propane, butane, isobutane, ethylene, acetylene, propene, propyne, and butadiene.